

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants timely filed on August 19, 2003, a Reply to the Office Action mailed February 19, 2003. The Reply added new claims, however, the claims were numbered incorrectly. This error has been corrected in this Reply.

Claims 1 and 49-72 are pending in this application. Claims 2-48 have been canceled. Claims 49-72 are newly presented in this response. Claim 1 has been amended. Applicants are submitting these amendments to advance prosecution of the subject matter of the amended claims, rather than in acquiescence to any of the specific positions expressed in the Office Action. Applicants expressly reserve the right to prosecute, in this or other related cases, subject matter ceded by the present amendments.

No new matter is added by the amendment to claim 1 or the newly presented claims. Support for the amendment to claim 1 and the newly presented claims can be found on at least page 4, lines 16-19, page 6, line 27 - page 7, line 18, page 8, lines 16-23, page 10, lines 19-25, page 14, lines 22 - page 16, line 9, page 19, lines 3-26 and throughout the specification.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Lee et al. ("Lee"; U.S. Patent No. 5,658,515). Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite a device comprising one or more microneedles having at least one substantially annular channel therethrough, and having a length between about 1 μ m and 1 mm and a diameter between about 1 μ m and 100 μ m, and a substrate to which the one or more microneedles is attached.

Lee discloses a polymer micromold and a fabrication process. Col. 2, ll. 33-35. The micromold may be used to produce microneedles. Col. 2, ll. 8-12. However, Lee fails to teach or suggest a substrate to which one or more microneedles is attached.

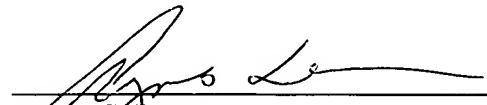
As Lee fails to teach or suggest all aspects of the presently claimed invention, Lee fails to anticipate the present claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the claim 1 as amended and new claims 49-72 are patentable over Lee.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all outstanding rejections and objections. Favorable consideration and allowance are earnestly solicited. Although Applicant believes no fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 18-1945, under Order No. BVTP-P04-506. Should there be any questions after reviewing this paper, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at 617-951-7000 (direct dial: 617-951-7794).

Respectfully submitted,

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